THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) the National Human Rights Commission has suggested the constitution of a task force to frame a national policy and plan for the creation of barrier free infrastructure for the disabled in accordance with the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. The National Policy for Disability is already at an advanced stage of formulation. Also the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for creation of barrier free infrastructure in transport sector, roads and public buildings by the appropriate government within the limits of their economic capacity and development. Action to create barrier free facilities for persons with disabilities in public buildings, on roads and in transport has been initiated by various authorities in Central Government. The Urban Development Ministry has prepared Model Building Bylaws and guidelines for construction of barrier free buildings and circulated the same to all States/UTs for adoption. While old buildings are being modified to facilitate access to persons with disabilities, instructions have been issued to Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and other agencies to incorporate barrier free features in the designs for new buildings. The efforts of making public buildings barrier-free is a continuous process and progress depends on the resources available.

Assistance for the welfare of backward classes

†1978. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide cent-percent Central assistance for the welfare of Other Backward Classes on the lines of schemes being run for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Pre-matric Scholarships, Post matric Scholarships and Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls are being implemented

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by this Ministry for OBC's under which the Central assistance provided to the States is at par with the Central Assistance provided under the Schemes of Pre-matric scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations, Post matric Scholarships for SCs and STs and Hostels for SC and ST boys and Girls.

Action plan for rehabilitation of PTGs

1979. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan formulated for rehabilitation of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) to bring them into the mainstream of tribal society; and

(b) the action taken to protect the rights of the original inhabitants of forests in litigation involving them in view of tribals affected by development projects?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The action Plans for the development of Primitive Tribal Groups have been prepared by the State Governments and UT Administrations encompassing various programmes in the sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, small scale and cottage industry, education, health, etc. under the strategy of the Tribal Sub-Plan. From 1998-99, an exclusive Central Sector Scheme for the Development of Primitive Tribal Groups has been in operation, under which cent per cent financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs and Non Governmental Organizations for undertaking activities for the welfare and development of Primitive Tribal Groups.

(b) The State Governments and UT Administrations provide Legal aid and advice to the members of the Scheduled Tribes to protect their rights in court cases. The Central Government also provides financial assistance to the States on a matching basis, for providing legal aid to members of the Scheduled Tribes who are involved in land-related litigation.